

U.S. Application No. 09/856,534
Amendment dated August 6, 2004
In Reply to the Office Action of February 25, 2004
Attorney ref. no. 037003-0280624

I. AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing disease tumor or cancer antigen-specific antibody responses in a subject who expresses said disease tumor or cancer antigen comprising administering ~~the chimeric protein of claim 10~~, to said subject

a chimeric protein comprising at its amino terminus at least one antibody fragment that comprises at least the variable region binding domain of an antibody that specifically binds an antigen expressed by a tumor or cancer cell, and further comprising at its carboxy terminus the extracellular binding portion of CD40 ligand,

such that disease antigen-specific immune responses are enhanced.

24. (Currently amended) A method of treating a disease tumor or cancer in a patient in need of such treatment comprising administering ~~the chimeric protein of Claim 10~~

a chimeric protein comprising at its amino terminus at least one antibody fragment that comprises at least the variable region binding domain of an antibody that specifically binds an antigen expressed by a tumor or cancer cell, and further comprising at its carboxy terminus the extracellular binding portion of CD40 ligand.

25-26. (Withdrawn)

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises at least one antibody constant region.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a light chain antibody or antibody fragment.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a flexible peptide linker intervening between the extracellular binding portion of CD40 ligand and the antibody fragment.

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30. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a linker peptide between said antibody variable region and said immunostimulatory ligand binding domain.

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the CD40 ligand is gp39.

32. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises at least one antibody constant region.

33. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a light chain antibody or antibody fragment.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a flexible peptide linker intervening between the extracellular binding portion of CD40 ligand and the antibody fragment.

35. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the chimeric protein further comprises a linker peptide between said antibody variable region and said immunostimulatory ligand binding domain.

36. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the CD40 ligand is gp39.